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NEW YORK, JAN. 27 (UPI)--AN IMPORTANT EXILED COSSACK LEADER HAS ABANDONED THE CAUSE OF GRAND DUKE VLADIMIR, THE RUSSIAN PRETENDER, AND THROWN HIS SUPPORT TO A NEW CLAIMANT TO THE THRONE OF THE ROMANOFFS, A DEFECTED POLISH SPY.

COL. ALEXIS L. TOULTZEFF, COSSACK MEMBER OF VLADIMIR'S SUPREME MONARCHIST FRONT BOARD, SAID YESTERDAY HE HAD RESIGNED FROM THE FIVE-MEMBER BOARD IN A CONTROVERSY OVER WHETHER TO RECOGNIZE THE CLAIMS OF THE DEFECTOR, COL. MICHAEL A. GOLENIEWSKI. THE POLE CLAIMS HE IS ACTUALLY GRAND DUKE ALEXEI, THE CZAREVICH AND SON OF THE LATE CZAR NICHOLAS II.

"I HAVE SEEN THE CZAREVICH ALEXEI MYSELF AND CAN AFFIRM THAT HE DESERVES RESPECT," SAID TOULTZEFF. "THE CZAREVICH HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO LIBERATE RUSSIA FROM THE BOLSHEVIK YOKE. WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN RUSSIA THERE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE THE SOUL OF RUSSIA."

GOLENIEWSKI CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN 1961 TO HELP THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) ROUT COMMUNISTS OUT OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND EMBASSIES. TWO WEEKS AGO HE MADE PUBLIC HIS CLAIMS THAT THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FAMILY WAS NOT EXECUTED BY THE BOLSHEVIKS IN 1918 BUT ESCAPED TO POLAND WHERE THEY LIVED INCOGNITO.

THE CLAIM HAS SPLIT THE RUSSIAN EMIGRE COLONY HERE AND IN LONDON, PARIS AND MADRID WHERE GRAND DUKE VLADIMIR LIVES. THE SUPREME MONARCHIST FRONT, OF WHICH TOULTZEFF WAS A MEMBER, REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF VLADIMIR, A COUSIN OF CZAR NICHOLAS.

GOLENIEWSKI'S CLAIMS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY HERMAN KIMSEY, WHO WAS CHIEF OF THE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH SECTION OF CIA WHEN THE AGENCY CHECKED ON THE IDENTITY AND BACKGROUND OF GOLENIEWSKI. KIMSEY IS NOW MAKING AN INDEPENDENT SEARCH FOR FURTHER PROOF WHICH WILL HELP GOLENIEWSKI SUSTAIN HIS CLAIMS IN A U.S. COURT.

(A RECENT COPY OF THE SOVIET ARMY ORGAN, RED STAR, TOOK NOTICE OF GOLENIEWSKI'S CLAIM AND ATTACKED HIM AS "A MAN WHO IS INTERESTED ONLY IN THE ROMANOFF FORTUNE, AND NOT IN THE DESTINY OF THE PEOPLES OF RUSSIA.")

AT STAKE IS AN ESTIMATED \$400 MILLION WHICH CZAR NICHOLAS BANKED OUTSIDE RUSSIA. NONE OF THE SURVIVING ROMANOFFS HAS BEEN ABLE TO CLAIM THE MONEY BECAUSE OF THE SMYSTERY SURROUNDING THE FATE OF THE CZAR. VLADIMIR IS THE SON OF GRAND DUKE CYRIL, WHO PROCLAIMED HIMSELF HEAD OF THE HOUSE OF ROMANOFF IN 1924 ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CZAR AND HIS HEIR WERE DEAD.